There were but few and slight earth-trembles experienced by the party while on the island. It is quite possible that the spit now connecting the two peaks is a later formation, not existing at the time of Hague's visit. Such spits may be formed or destroyed in a single winter storm. The Corwin party, however, thought this had merely been elevated from the seabed with Ship Rock, but without the participation of the old peak. It is at present composed of fine black sand, and gray, black-spotted, water-worn pebbles, without vegetation, and may be covered with breakers during heavy storms. It is less than four thousand feet long, and about three hundred and twenty-six feet wide at its narrowest part. W. H. DALL.

THE CHOLERA EPIDEMIC IN PARIS AND IN YPORT.

WE reproduce to-day two diagrams, showing the course of the epidemic of cholera in Paris in November. They are both taken from recent numbers of the *Revue scientifique.*

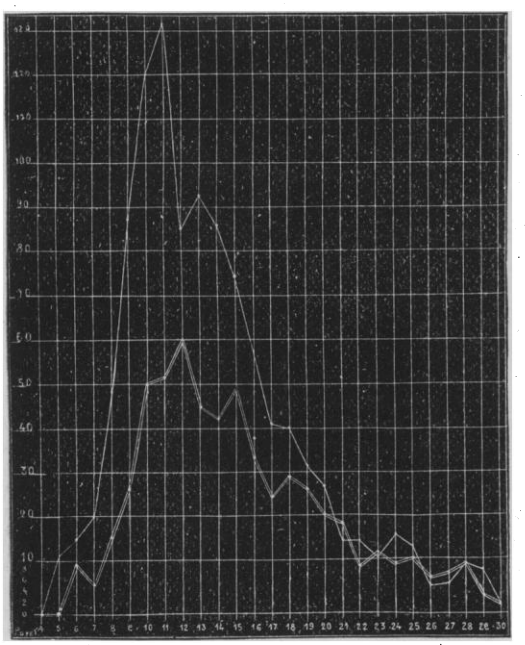

FIG. 1.

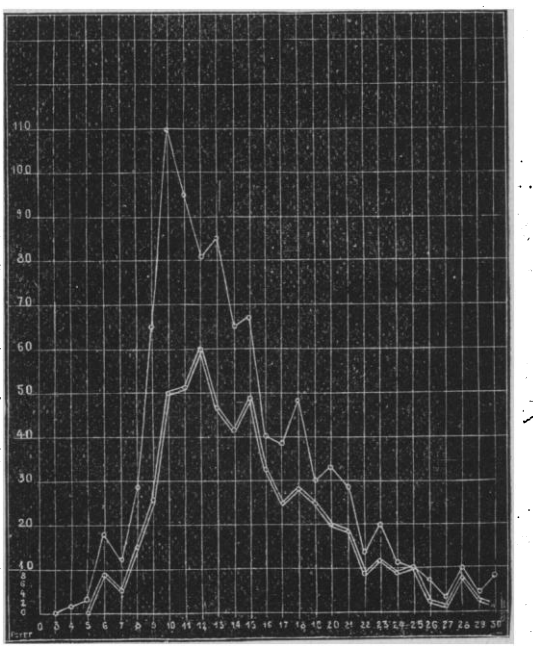

FIG. 2.

In both of them the double line is the curve of deaths; but in fig. 1 the single line is the curve of cases admitted to the hospital, whilst in fig. 2 it indicates the total number of deaths in the city and hospitals taken together.

The numbers along the foot of the diagram indicate the days of the month. The vertical columns show the number of entries and of deaths in fig. 1, and the number of deaths in fig. 2.

Examining the first diagram, we find that the first case entered the hospital on Nov. 4; that on the 5th there were ten new cases; and that the number ran up very rapidly, until, on the 11th of November, one hundred and thirty-two new cases were reported from the hospitals alone. From this date the number of cases diminished, until, on Nov. 30, there were but two new cases, and two deaths; and immediately after this the activity of the epidemic became suspended. Taking the total number of cases recorded (1,002), and comparing it with the number of deaths (573), we have a mortality of 57%, — a rather startling result, under the circumstances; for it may be taken for granted, that under the care of a hospital staff, if anywhere, the best results are to be obtained in the treatment of this disease. It may be said, and with how much truth we do not know, that only the worst cases were entered at the hospitals, and that many of these were moribund at the time of entrance. Our impression is, however, that the cases were a fair representation of the average.

This diagram presents also the usual characteristics of a cholera epidemic, the stage of increase (Nov. 4–10), the stationary stage (Nov. 10–14), and the period of decline (Nov. 14–30). This, of course, is but a representation in miniature of what occurs in outbreaks that are spread over a greater extent of time. The suddenness of the decline of the epidemic may be due, in part, to the vigorous measures taken to stamp it out; but its disappearance is to be ascribed mostly to the frosts of the last of the month, which were frequent and rather severe.

The second diagram presents in a graphic manner the comparative rate of mortality in and out of the hospitals. From it we find that the total number of deaths from cholera from Nov. 3 to Nov. 30 was 916, and that 343 of these took place in the city at large. We regret exceedingly that the total number of cases in the city is not at hand for purposes of comparison with those in the hospitals. The question of the advantages of hospital treatment for such cases is still an open one in certain quarters, and may be settled in some measure by a study of this epidemic.

The conclusions to be drawn from the charts are that the outbreak was not an extended one, although it was widely diffused throughout the poorer parts of the city; that its virulence, as a whole, was equal to that of others, the rate of mortality being fully up to the average; and that the recent advances in sanitary science are not yet so thoroughly perfected and crystallized that their application to practical purposes produces a visible effect in the restraint of a pestilence, when occurring in a large city.

What may be done in a small community which is thoroughly under medical control is illustrated by an account, by Mr. Gibert, of an outbreak of cholera at Yport, near Havre.[1] This epidemic is as interesting and complete in its details as a laboratory experiment. The community is small and isolated, contains sixteen hundred inhabitants, and is out of the direct line of travel. The source of the disease was traced with precision to two sailors who reached the village Sept. 28. One of them had had an attack of cholera at Cette; and on the day after his arrival at Yport he soaked his soiled clothing, and hung it out to dry in front of his house, allowing the dirty water to run along the street.

From this nidus the disease started, and there occurred forty-two cases with eighteen deaths. Without following the account further, it will be interesting to read Gibert's conclusions — justifiable, apparently, from the account which he gives. They are, —

1. That cholera was brought to Yport.

2. That it was brought by insufficiently disinfected clothing, soiled by cholera dejecta.

3. That, after this clothing was washed, it became the agent of severe and rapid contamination.

4. That the cholera was propagated, by means of contagion, from house to house, without its being possible to attribute a single case to the transportation of the specfiic germ by the air.

5. That the sanitary measures taken, although incomplete, inasmuch as it was not possible to separate the sick from the well, were sufficient to stamp out the epidemic.

6. That the complete destruction of the cholera dejecta, and the disinfection or destruction of all effects soiled by them, seem to be sufficient to stamp out an epidemic of the disease, when it has not attained too great proportions.

7. That contagion by the air (the common acceptation of the term) appears to be an error; for at Yport three nuns and three physicians, or students in medicine, lived for a month under the most favorable conditions for taking the disease by this channel. They all escaped, with no further precautions than taking their meals at a distance from the cholera patients, and avoiding the handling of moist and soiled clothing.

8. The question of water has no bearing in this case, for the very good reason that the Yportais never drink any.

[1] Revue scient., Dec. 6, 1884, No. 23, p. 724.

AN AMERICAN COMMUNE.

THERE is at present a wide-spread feeling, both among scholars and men of affairs, that the time has come for an abandonment of that economic method which consisted largely in verbal quibbles and scholastic controversies about definitions of conceptions, and for a substitution in its place of a careful examination into the phenomena of this wonderful life of man in society which has received so little attention from science. The question is asked, "Why not study economic phenomena as we study the phenomena of plant or animal life?" And surely it seems as interesting and as important to observe the social life of man as that of ants in an ant-hill. It was with this conviction that Dr. Shaw undertook the preparation of this little volume on Icaria; and he was fully conscious of the fact that he was treating communism from a new stand-point, as is shown by these words taken from the preface: —

"A great number of books and articles have been written in recent years, discussing socialism and communism in the abstract; . . . and there would be no reason for the present monograph if it also undertook to enter the field of general discussion. Such is not its purpose or plan. Certainly the most common defect in the current literature of social and political questions consists in the tendency to generalize too hastily. Too little diligence is given to searching for the facts of history, and to studying with minute attention the actual experiences of men. In the following pages an attempt is made to present the history of a single communistic enterprise; . . . to picture its inner life as a miniature social and political organism; to show what are, in actual experience, the difficulties which a communistic society encounters; and to show by a series of pen-portraits what manner of men the enterprise has enlisted."

To prepare himself for his task, Dr. Shaw read the works of the French communist Cabet, the founder of Icaria, the publications of other Icarians, and passed a week with them. This volume is, then, a careful study, conducted in the spirit of modern science.

Icaria, with its romantic and interesting history, is an example of pure communism, and as such has important lessons to teach.

Icaria: a chapter in the history of communism. By ALBERT SHAW, Ph.D. New York and London, *G. P. Putnam's Sons*, 1884. 9+219 p. 16°.